Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C06628538

file

CIA Operations Center

Subject ALLEGED RIFT AMONG ARGENTINE JUNTA MEMBERS

Date 27 JAN 76 3.5(c)

Analyst/SOO

Distribution

O White House Spot Report

NC-WHSR-76-016

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C06628538

3.5(c)

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C06628538

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

CHANNELS

AGE COD ACP JOG SPE WRO DCI TBI PAGE 1 OF PAGES

SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

MICROFILMED

MICRO ONLY

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP: CIA/OC/WHSR 78-016

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA OPS CTR

SOURCE REF:

| ROUTING | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | OPSCTR | 4 | {GAIL} | 7 | | 10 |
| | 2 | | 5 | | 8 | | 11 |
| | 3 | | 6 | | 9 | | 12 |

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM, STATE RCI//INFO OPS CTR FOR DELORES WAHL, NMCC//ATTN CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO

[redacted] 3.5(c)

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 2 DATE: 27 JAN, 78

SUBJECT: ALLEGED RIFT AMONG ARGENTINE JUNTA MEMBERS

ACCORDING TO TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST, THE ACTIONS OF DISSIDENT JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MASSERA, WHO IS THE COMMANDER OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY, ARE CREATING SERIOUS TENSIONS WITHIN THE THREE-MAN MILITARY JUNTA THAT HAS GOVERNED SINCE MARCH, 1976. THE ARTICLE IS GROSSLY OVERSTATED AND MISLEADING IN A NUMBER OF AREAS.Y

ACCORDING TO THE STORY, ADMIRAL MASSERA IS INCREASINGLY PRONE TO EXPRESS HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH THE POLICIES OF PRESIDENT VIDELA, WHO IS ALSO COMMANDER OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY, THE MOST POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL OF THE MILITARY SERVICES. MOREOVER, MASSERA IS SAID TO HAVE CLAIMED THAT HE WOULD HALT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IF ALLOWED TO REPLACE VIDELA IN THE PRESIDENCY. BOTH ISSUES NEED TO BE UNDERSTOOD IN CONTEXT.Y

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

COORDINATING OFFICERS

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

E 2 IMPDET
CL BY:

FORM 10-74 4C USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C06628538

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C06628538

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

CHANNELS

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI TRI PAGE OF PAGES

SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

MESSAGE REF DATE-TIME GROUP CITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

3.5(c)

SOURCE REF:

| ROUTING | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 4 | | 7 | | 10 | |
| 2 | | 5 | | 8 | | 11 | |
| 3 | | 6 | | 9 | | 12 | |

TO BEGIN WITH, MASSERA, ALMOST FROM THE START, HAS MADE A HABIT OF EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION WITH VIDELA. HE DOES SO BECAUSE HE IS AN UNABASHED OPPORTUNIST WHO CLEARLY HOPES TO UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE IN THE PRESIDENT AND PROMOTE HIS OWN AMBITIONS. TO DATE, THIS PRACTICE HAS GOTTEN MASSERA NOWHERE, ALTHOUGH HE IS A CONSIDERABLE NUISANCE TO VIDELA. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO OTHER INDICATIONS THAT THERE IS A SERIOUS SPLIT WITHIN THE RULING JUNTA. INDEED, DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO VIDELA.4

IN ADDITION, TH[illegible] IS NO REASON WHATEVER TO ACCEPT THE NOTION THAT MASSERA SERIOUSLY ENTERTAINS MORE LIBERAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIEWS THAN VIDELA. THE EVIDENCE IS TO THE CONTRARY. VIDELA HAS CONSISTENTLY FAVORED LESS REPRESSION AND MORE DIALOGUE AND HAS STEADILY FACED OPPOSITION FROM MILITARY ADVOCATES OF A ROUGHER LINE. MASSERA HIMSELF IS REPORTEDLY ONE OF THOSE SEEKING TO BLOCK LIBERALIZATION.4

CLEARLY, MASSERA'S ALLEGED MACHINATIONS DO NOT, AS THE ARTICLE SAYS, CONSTITUTE THE "FIRST VISIBLE CRACK IN THE MILITARY MONOLITH" THAT RULES ARGENTINA. MOREOVER, THERE IS NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT THE

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER COORDINATING OFFICERS AUTHENTICATING OFFICER 3.5(c)

CLASSIFICATION

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

FORM 10-74 4C USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C06628538

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C06628538

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

CHANNELS

AGE CSG ACP TOG TPC DTG DCI ITD

PAGE OF PAGES

SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

MESSAGE NR DATE-TIME GROUP CITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

3.5(c)

SOURCE REF:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 4 | | 7 | | 10 | |
| 2 | | 5 | | 8 | | 11 | |
| 3 | | 6 | | 9 | | 12 | |

OTHER JUNTA MEMBER, AIR FORCE CHIEF GENERAL AGOSTI, IS ALSO "PITTED" AGAINST VIDELA. AGOSTI, WHOSE JUNTA ROLE AND INFLUENCE ARE MINIMAL, HAS IN THE PAST REPORTEDLY SYMPATHIZED WITH SOME OF MASSERA'S COMPLAINTS, BUT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT HE IS ENCOURAGING MASSERA THIS TIME.4

FINALLY, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE AMBITIOUS MASSERA IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME IN WHICH TO INFLUENCE NATIONAL POLITICS. HE IS SCHEDULED FOR MANDATORY RETIREMENT LATER THIS YEAR. WHEN HE LEAVES ACTIVE DUTY HE WILL LOSE EVEN THE LIMITED ABILITY HE NOW HAS TO INFLUENCE OTHER MILITARY MEN AGAINST VIDELA. THUS, MASSERA MAY HAVE DECIDED TO CUT AS WIDE A SWATH AS POSSIBLE WHILE HE STILL RETAINS THE PREROGATIVES OF A SERVICE COMMANDER. PREPARED BY: 3.5(c)

REF: PRESS. 62, IMPDET.4

ORIG: SDO REL: SDO 3.5(c)

3.5(c)

DATE: 27 JAN. 78
ORIG: OPS CTR
UNIT: SDO

3.5(c)

CLASSIFICATION REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED AUTHENTICATING OFFICER 3.5(c)

FORM 10-74 4C USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C06628538